



front housing member 10. In the preferred embodiment of the invention, the front housing member 10 is constructed of a material such as polyester or nylon, but it may alternatively be constructed of other materials having the characteristics described herein above. It will be understood that, by manufacturing the front housing member 10 from a transparent or translucent material, it is possible to see behind the housing member 10 when looking from a position in front of the housing member 10.

For purposes of simplifying the explanation of the present invention, as used herein, the terms "front", "back", "behind" and the like, refer to the operational orientation of the subject elements as would be seen by an observer facing the direction of fluid medium F flow, as indicated by arrow 101.

The fluid medium F containing particulate matter P passes member 10, preferably made by screen (woven or non-woven) of transparent or translucent inert material (polyester, nylon, etc.) with openings greater than the size of the average particulate matter passing there through. After passing member 10, the fluid flow passes through member 20. The color of filter member 20 preferably has a high color density contrast with respect to that of the expected particulate matter.

In operation, as the fluid medium F flows through the front housing member 10 and the filter member 20, particulate matter P becomes captured by, and accumulates on, the filter member 20.

It is a common misunderstanding that as particulates buildup on filtering media, that the media color always goes from light to dark. In actuality,